

JBCN MUN - Newsletter

The
coMUNity
TIMES

November 20th 2021, Parel



Opening Ceremony!

“MUN trains today's students to be tomorrow's leaders.”

Ahana Jain and Ayaan Beringwala
the two hosts

welcomed over 50 delegates from different schools in the city
to the 2021 JBCN Parel MUN conference.

They then welcomed the School Principal, Mr. Davi Netto to share a few
motivational words.

He spoke about the life skills one learns in the process of taking part in the MUN

“You learn skills that are extremely important in our world” said he.

“All of these are skills that you learn in the conferences are the most
important in the 21st century.”

He asked us to ponder , “How do I bring people to my side, who do I want on my side?”

Also very truly stating that MUN has more to it than just the win.

“Bringing people to your side is a lot more important than winning a debate.”

Shedding light upon the fact that MUN is more than just deliberating about policies
of different countries- it is about negotiation.

Finally, he left the delegates with a statement of pure ambition:

“Everything you're doing today may have an impact in the real world, and you're only going to
know in a few years.”

The hosts then welcomed the guest speaker Siemen Ringdahl, a 25 year old Norwegian
data scientist who has arranged several MUNs in the past and is well versed with the process.
He too, like Mr. Davi stated that there is more to MUN than just the debate, you learn crucial lessons like
teamwork, confidence and listening skills from it.

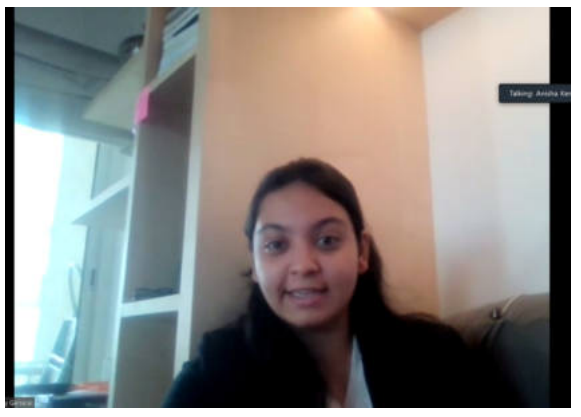
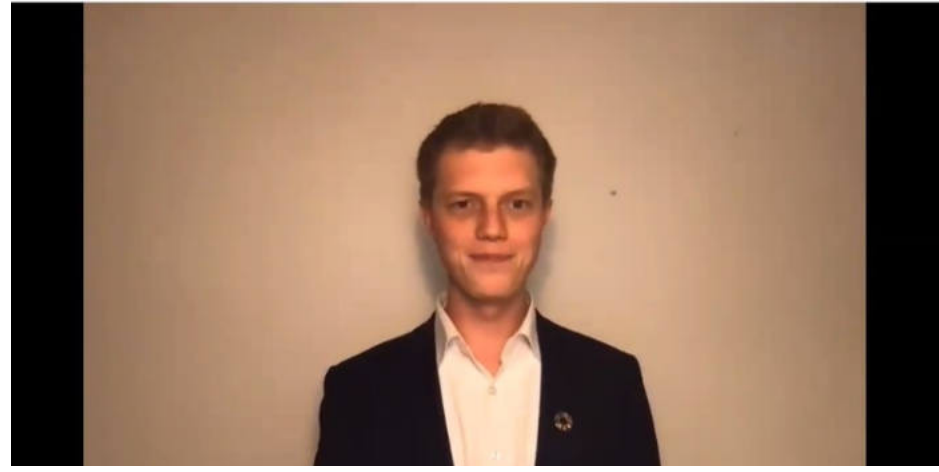
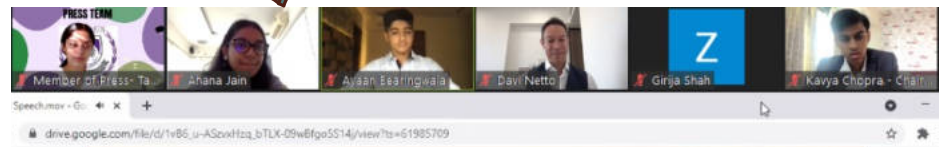
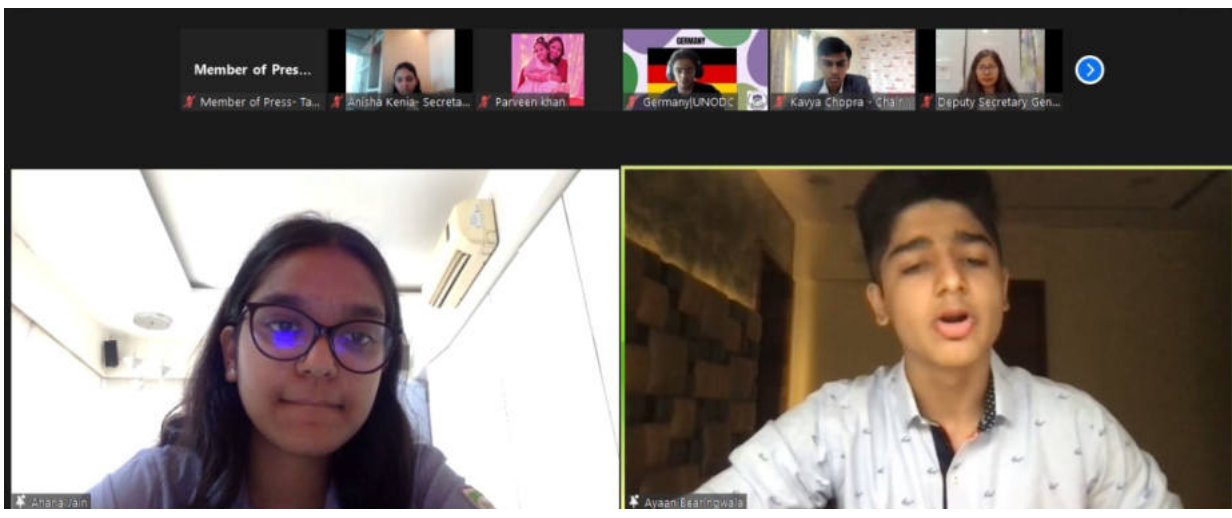
“Don't be too certain. MUN is a platform for experimenting policies and diplomacy.
Those aren't science, it can't tell u what's right and wrong. So don't go into the discussion
thinking you're the best. Second, don't be ashamed to be silent. It's difficult to speak in a
room full of people. Take pride in listening. Do be wary of the silent, intensity does not equal
intellect,” he said.

Ahana and Ayaan then introduced the committees, the chairs and co-chairs
as well as the press team. Finally, Raissa Dhedia, the Deputy Secretary general shared
some advice and she spoke about

how her first couple of MUNs “were a rollercoaster”, and those
words of reassurance were sure
to help the MUNners to perform their best.

And finally, the Secretary General Anisha Kenia spoke about her
past experiences as a MUNner and then later, she
declared the JBCN MUN 2021 conference open.

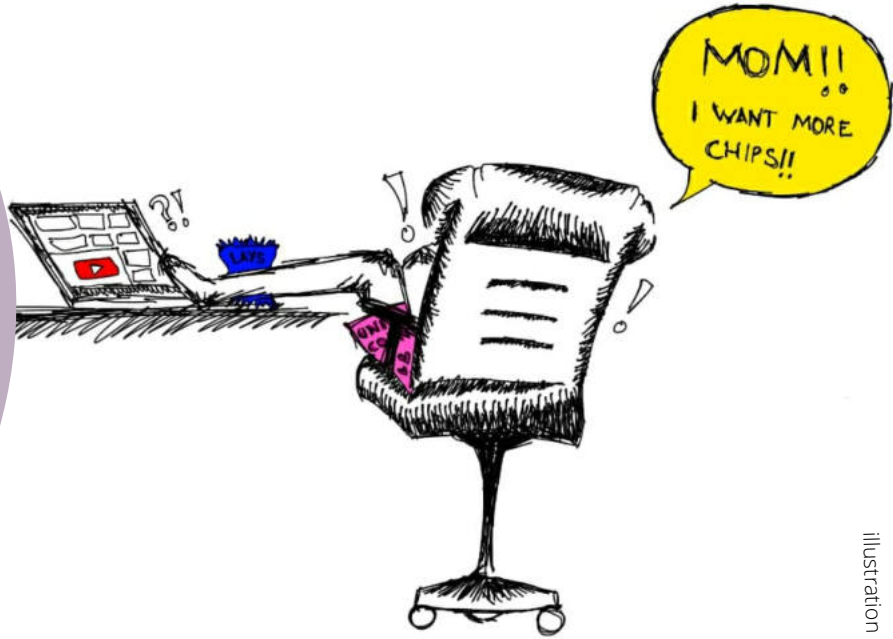
Article By: Tarinni Shirodkar





MUN DO'S AND DON'TS

**BE SURE NOT TO STAND UP
IN FRUSTRATION WITH
YOUR CAMERA ON
BECAUSE YOU ARE
MOST DEFINITELY
WEARING THOSE UNICORN
PAJAMA BOTTOMS
THAT YOUR AUNT GAVE
YOU ON YOUR BIRTHDAY!**



illustration

**HUNGRY? FIRST, CHECK
YOUR AUDIO BUTTON AND
MAKE SURE YOU'RE MUTED,
BEFORE YELLING FROM
YOUR ROOM TO ASK YOUR
MOM TO WHIP UP A QUICK
MEAL!**



**IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE, BUT
YOU ARE TOO EMBARRASSED
TO TELL THE CHAIR THAT
YOU NEED TO USE THE
WASHROOM, KEEP THAT
POPULAR GLITCHY TIK TOK
AUDIO HANDY TO PLAY IN
THE MEETING, AND AMIDST
THE CHAOS LEAVE AND
RUN!!!!**



MUN DO'S AND DON'TS

**SHARING YOUR SCREEN AND THE
CHAIR ASKS YOU A QUESTION?
MAKE SURE TO STOP SHARING
BEFORE YOU GOOGLE THE
ANSWER!**



**IF YOU WANT TO FAKE AN INTERNET ISSUE,
NEVER PLAY THOSE CLIPS FROM YOUTUBE
BECAUSE YOUR CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR HAVE
PROBABLY ALSO USED THEM ENOUGH TO
ESCAPE CLASS AND THEY RECOGNISE
THEM!(p.s. don't tell them we said that and
having our names at the top of this article
isn't helping much either)**

Provocation over Clarification

There is no correct way to define xenophobia. There is no correct way to clarify or identify anti-Semitism. There is no correct way to avoid racism. Yet, we form mere definitions and explanatory theories and the origin of these words in order to euphemise it down to something to wrap our cynical heads around.

The Cambridge Dictionary defines xenophobia as an extreme dislike or fear of foreigners, their customs, beliefs or their religions. This prejudice, or hostility, rather has been deep-rooted throughout innumerable centuries. Be it Romanis or Jews, racism has been manifested and targeted immensely for these individuals, based on various aspects such as skin colour, national origin, and the most common – race.

Concerns have been raised about the increasing tendencies of Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, which have grown into alarming dangers to world peace and social euphony and balance. Another source of concern has been discrimination against refugees, mostly against people of African origin.

1 in every 50 people today is a migratory worker, a refugee or asylum seeker, or an immigrant residing in a foreign nation. According to current United Nations and International Organization for Migration estimates, around 150 million individuals live temporarily or permanently outside their country of origin. All these problems narrow down to one thing – xenophobia.

The term Roma or Romani refers to a large ethnic group of individuals who self-identify as members of several sub-groups based on present or former geographical locations, dialects, and occupations, among other factors. In Europe, there are around ten million Romanis. There are urbanised Roma groups as well. Romanis can be found in almost every European country.

Anti-Gypsyism can be defined as a type of a racial oppression tenet. Discrimination against Romanis is far-flung and ubiquitous throughout Europe. The Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe has publicized,

there are perturbing trends across Europe towards Romanis. Across the EU member states, using declamations to illicit hate towards the entire Roma population is rampant.

As Romanis are more prone to encounter discrimination, they are inevitably susceptible to natural disasters, armed conflicts, and economic wanes. In numerous nations, Romanis have been flagrantly murdered through the immorality of violent bigoted gangs.

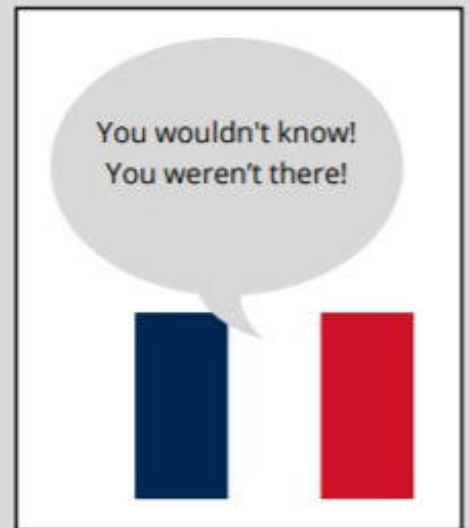
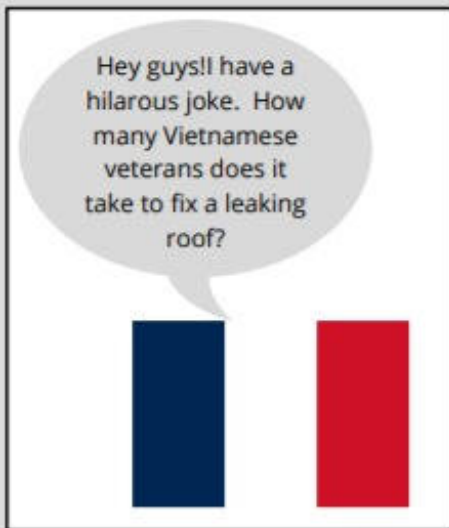
Another major issue is anti-Semitism, which is "hostility toward Jews as a religious or minority group, frequently accompanied by social, economic, and political discrimination." Antisemitism has an extensive history in Europe, dating back to the Middle Ages. Pogroms, which were 'organised discriminatory acts of violence' against Jewish communities by the local population were common in Russia by the end of the 19th century, and were encouraged by governments' antisemitic policies. France and Austria, were also prone to attacks on Jewish communities.

The facts and figures do not portray the centuries of suffrage of the "blacks", "yellows", "browns" and races of the whole spectrum. However, there is a correct way to support- by speaking up for the silenced. There is a correct way to fight for justice- by reprimanding the bullies and questioning the not-so-innocent bystanders. There is a correct way to stop the injustice - by shutting down the stereo-types and stepping out of the echo-chambers.

Now more than ever have we come close to grasping that first ray of the dawn of awakening. The spotlight has now shifted to the part of the population that sits behind masked avatars on the internet, frightening old men in suits behind wooden desks, guarded by muscular '*Men in Black*'. Scared, knowing the potential of woke, uncompromising, compassionate, unabashed, lucid world-citizens. So this is the chance delegates, the propitious platform to flex your freedom of speech.

LAUGHING AWAY MUNDAY BLUES





THE USA V.S THE SOVIET UNION

THE BIG BREAK: THEIR STANCE ON THE VIETNAM WAR AND MORE BANTER

The Vietnam War was a long and costly one that pitted the Communist North of Vietnam, Against the South of Vietnam.

The chair arranged all the delegates in an orderly manner to give their own, individual stands on the Vietnam War. It was very clear what the countries' stands were.

Belgium, anti- communist, and telling the delegates how they supplied Vietnam with resources and were their allies.

The delegate of USA also anti-communist, gave a brief on what they did to help South Vietnam. The delegate of the Soviet Union quite passionately rebuked the USA and boldly declared how wrong and immoral the USA was for all the mass destruction they caused. They concluded by saying that communism was the way to go and that the other countries should open their eyes to that fact.

North Korea shared the same ideas as the Soviet Union. "There have been unknown number of deaths and ariel bombings. The French only made the situation worse by using Vietnamese resources. The rising death tolls are turning into struggles," said the delegate. The delegate of North Korea concluded by saying they trust the other delegates to come to a helpful solution.

Then, the 2v2 was introduced, an eventful standoff between the Soviet Union, South Vietnam, China and The USA. The Soviet Union stated that the USA were, "So very blind and ignorant and blatantly refusing to have any mercy towards South Vietnam."

Later, the delegate of the Soviet Union added "A prime part of any government is freedom of speech and liberty, but they are still bombing" and that "the Soviet Union will always be superior".

Next, the delegate of South Vietnam said "Bombing is the last resort!"

The delegate of China added to the bold point of the delegate of The Soviet Union "The USA interferes in forgein affairs mess it up and then get out of it, they take advantage of their power, hatred has turned into ignorance, communism is the best way to create peace and we have all seen that, we can see what the USA has done with their so called democracy"

Finally, the USA got a chance to voice their opinion "I find it funny that the delegate of the Soviet Union and China are still talking about the bombing, there is no point in living in the past and playing the blame game, this is what the Soviet Union and China have been doing this whole time, so let's focus on how to help Vietnam."



The Banter Continues...

Then, the floor was opened to an Uninterrupted Debate.

China- "The USA's reply to the mass murder is to forget about the people they hurt"

USA- "We have learnt our lesson and we should focus on the future."

CHINA-"The USA is saying that we should look into the future but it's impossible to forget the past"

USA-"We have learnt for our mistakes, and I haven't heard a solution from your mouth yet, why don't we focus on the main topic instead of criticizing others"

SOVIET UNION- "What solution have you proposed???!!!! You acknowledging your actions and learning your lesson isn't making a difference, 40,000 people died, delegate ! And then you learn your lesson?"

USA- "THE MAIN CRITERIA IS VIETNAM!!! We have to bring possible solutions, not argue about the past."

SOVIET UNION-" Are you deaf, delegate??!!!"

USA-"You guys are still going to the past??!!! Focus on the real issue here"

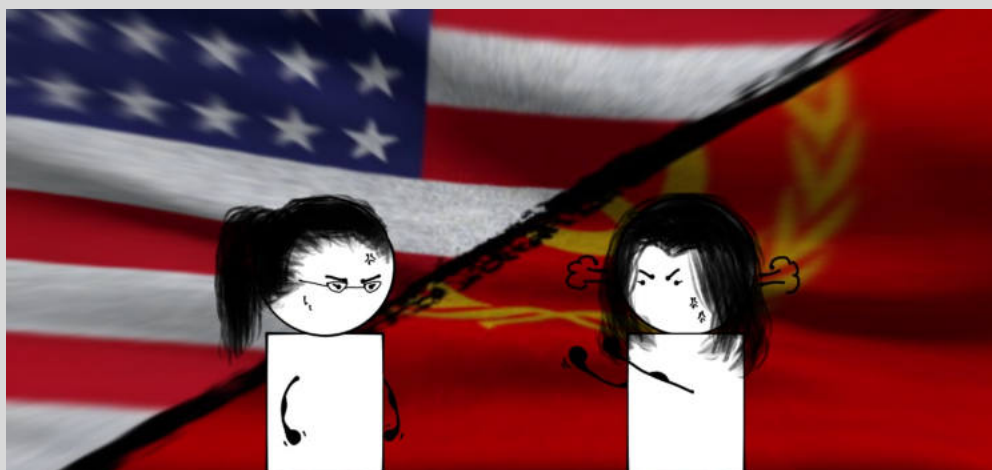
SOVIET UNION- "Read the heading on the council, the first word is historic delegate!!! You are making the Vietnamese back out by bombing them because you don't agree with their ideologies!"

USA- "You keep going in the past"

CHINA- "we have to realise the past and realise that people are killing themselves because they don't want to live under your rule."

SOVIET UNION-" Not to mention the MY Lai massacre! A shame to your already disgusting reputation."

-After a true Republic T.V debate experience, the time ran out and our ears were saved from Angry, screaming delegates-



Dissing with Diplomacy

The SOCHUM committee today had some brave and concise points coming in from the delegates. One of them included ribbing between the delegate of the USA and the delegate of Pakistan.

The delegate of the USA scrutinized about how the delegate of Pakistan mentioned,

“Our government fosters equality and is trying their best to fight racism and xenophobia. Yet the Pakistani government chooses to fund projects for "uncalculated precipitation", over financially helping the families of those affected by racial violence and murder. How is this "fighting" racism or "fostering" equality?” Raising crucial questions, piquing fruitful debate during committee.

Pakistan replied as quoted, “Firstly, the project is futuristic, results will be seen and I assure you that the project will be a success and the gender gap will reduce. Furthermore delegate, the delegate of Pakistan does accept that gender discrimination is present but you boycotting our nation isn't really helping us in any way. Lastly, might I remind you that changes have been made, women are part of the parliament, we had an elected female prime minister as well, the government has also started educating rural areas about the problem and education is also an unrealised fundamental right. You may feel gender inequality is present but that's mainly because of the sunni belief, and when Pakistan has tried multiple times to educate countries about the same, they have rejected our proposal.

Although, on an informal note, great question delegate, respect for that.”

It is incredible to see delegates test the policies of each other's countries, nonetheless speaking with utter diplomacy and adherence towards one another's perseverance.

CLICHES OF COMMITTEE

Any allegations, mockery, extreme sarcasm or jokes made in this article are completely intentional. The Press Team is not liable to any personal offence taken. Please read at your own risk

We're all well aware of the many cliches of MUN committees, still though if we've forgotten here's the SOCHUM committee's first session to remind us.

Beginning with the chairs prodding delegates to form blocs in accordance to countries' policies and NOT because their best friend is part of a particular bloc, unironically.

Like the most-awaited moment in every committee session, comes the time for the banter between the countries whose turbulent relationship seems to have inspired most frenemy teenage flicks. As the delegate of India makes a speech for equality amidst all races, religions and genders, Pakistan grills him confronting PM Modi's “hum hind lenge” statement- which means that India accepts solely hindu refugees. To this question, well-noted by the chair, India replied, brimming with ‘josh’, “The delegate will answer through chat.” Keeps you on the edge doesn't it!

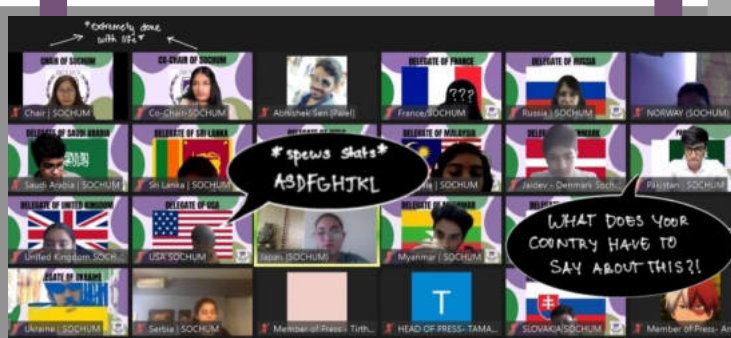
Next comes Denmark's GSL speech drowning in the echoes of their malfunctioning microphone, as the delegate of Ukraine is devoured by the black sea of its background. Miraculously, this is the exact point in time the delegate of Sri Lanka chose to debut his voice to raise a point of personal privilege, meanwhile nature's call on hold.

Sometimes MUN committees open your eyes to the complexity and variety of characteristics different people have. For example, a person could have stage-fright while another one in the same room has the fight of keeping mum; much like our delegate of Oman who successfully fails to unmute their mic and the contradicting delegate of USA. The delegate of the USA rapped on about all the ‘good’ his country has done to overcome racism- despite the velocity of his one-breath, fast and furious GSL speech, he was interrupted by the time buzzer. *finally respirates*

Then finally at 9:39 IST, the most contemplated words of all: “Delegates Decorum” was proclaimed by the chair to break up a chain of follow ups that the delegate of Pakistan roped in the delegate of the USA with.

With repetitive reminders by the chair and co-chairs to vote for motions and actively attending committee, instead of attending their ex's live on instagram, delegates left the chairs contemplating their choices. Giving up after continual reminders and all kinds of motivational, threatening and beseeching speeches to participate, chairs ended up passing motions with ‘chair's discretion’.

However these are the dramatic elements that keep the committee from being absolutely MUNDane.



DROPPING THE BOMB

FIGURATEVELY AND LITERALLY

Pakistan was pleading for help, Myanmar had finally snapped, the Taliban was threatening to bomb Myanmar and take over the world. How did it all come to this?

Well...

It was session 3, UNODC. Already, there had been multiple moderated and unmoderated caucuses, wherein many fingers were pointed and alliances were formed. There was just something else that was needed and for that we have the delegates of Afghanistan and Columbia to thank.

In the latest communique, it was stated that-

'Colombian intelligence services have proven that the Pakistani government is providing capital and funds to opium cultivators and illegal suppliers in Myanmar through a new overland trade route along with another route through the Pacific Ocean to promote illegal trade into the USA, devastatingly impacting its economy. It was also further uncovered that the Pakistan government had asked the Chinese government for capital to buy the silence and the ignorance of the food and drug regulatory agency in Myanmar'

This did not settle well with many delegates, so when the motion for a SSL was raised, you can only imagine the amount of hands raised. We had the delegate of Afghanistan, claiming that Myanmar, Pakistan and China had been playing a charade throughout the committee; pretending to understand the crisis at hand when they themselves were the problems.

With that we come to the Taliban accepting the fact that they had help from Pakistan to smuggle opium to western countries, and showing their gratitude to the Pakistani government and the corrupt police. Now thanks to them, they have access to more funds to grow larger and take over even more countries. The delegate of Pakistan, extremely offended by the accusations, pointed out the fact that they only did this because of the Taliban (Cue the dramatic music). Apparently, the country originally related pretty well with the Taliban, but as time went on, Pakistan disagreed with the Taliban's extremist ways. Now they're being manipulated and threatened to keep providing them, and now Pakistan is ready to rebel. Pakistan has allied with China, so that they can provide them with arms to go against.

Now the delegate of Myanmar has been sitting there, listening to these accusations, and something just snapped- their patience. Being informed that there were Muslims immigrating from Bangladesh, Myanmar assured that each of the Muslims will be killed, even changing their policy, no longer staying a democracy.

To the delegate of Pakistan, the Taliban asked why they had so many problems with them. Apparently, the Taliban had helped Pakistan make money and improve the living situations of people. They tried to persuade them to join their side and fight against Myanmar, even threatening to bomb their entire country.

Whew... that was a lot, wasn't it. To conclude, some wise words by the delegate of UK-

"It would be so ironic if WW3 would have started in a UN committee, when in fact, the UN was made to prevent WW3."





EXCLUSIVE- SOCHUM CRISIS

A member of the BBC Press introduces the crisis, updating the delegates that a mole is present in committee, who has been leaking out information. Some time later, the delegates are once again updated with horrific news; "8 innocent people were inhumanly murdered and a bloodbath of 10 has taken place in India. Our sources say that these murders are all targeted towards innocent Islamic people and a certain pattern is being speculated, Is this Islamophobia?"

The crisis announcement left the delegates in shock and the committee in sheer chaos as some delegates began pointing fingers, while some were left deliberating plausible theories and relevant motives.

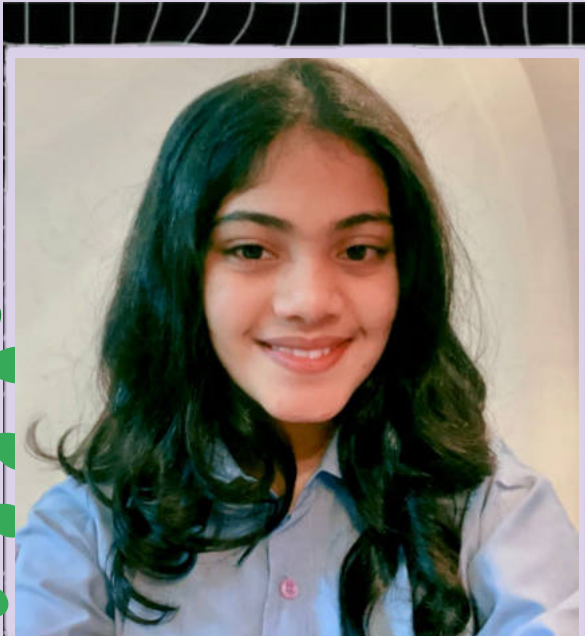
The delegates of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Myanmar seemed to have ganged up against the purported 'bully'- condemning USA as the apparent mole in committee rationalized by the aggressive provoking statements in his earlier speeches.

USA then admonishes the delegates that there may have been 18 lives lost today but there have been thousands before, passively dragging Russia into the mud, as anticipated.

Some delegates suggested in their speech that killing 18 people today for a terror act that occurred in 2009 is outright injustice and this has to be fought with unity rather than playing the age-old blame game.

The shifting of allegations and certainly no shortage of finger-pointing amidst the delegates in committee quite closely parallels real life politicians and their decisions, tactics and their favorite game of pushing other nations under the bus of accusations. Does this very event shed light upon how easy it is to throw the burden onto someone other than yourself? Is this one of those points in committee that dawns realization over us about the mistakes world leaders make everyday, the world leaders we voted for? And last but not least of all, do we realize real world past mistakes and work towards more ethical solutions or prove that "learn from the past" is just another line befitting only to motivational speeches and political campaigns?

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